THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (e) The Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme was discontinued in August, 1991. As regards Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme, it has not been extended beyond 31.3.1995. However, a proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation, of the textiles and jute industry. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian Textile industry to make it more competitive, including in the export market. Details of a Technology Upgradation Fund for textiles and jute industries are being worked out.

Export of Readymade Garments

*51. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the value of readymade garments exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the country-wise details of the export of garments made during the above period;

(c) whether the Apparel Export Promotion Council explored markets in various countries during the last year; and

(d) if so, the names of such countries and the value of garments exported to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The total value of readymade garments exported during each of the last three years is as follows:-

	Value in million US Dollars
1994-95	4433.83
1995-96	4453.31
1996-97	4762.10

(b) The country-wise exports of readymade garments to some of the major importing countries are as follows:-

	Value in Million US Dollars		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
European Union	2042.4	1970.2	1899.9
USA	1257.9	1200.3	1352.8
C.I.S.	188.8	243.0	272.4
U.A.E.	132.9	144.8	186.4
Canada	135.7	160.4	164.5
Japan	149.3	153.2	119.9
Switzerland	106.1	110.5	101.5
Australia	57.3	71.2	90.2

(c) and (d) The Apparel Export Promotion Council has explored various markets by organising special export promotional events like Buyer-Seller-Meets as well as by sending exploratory delegations during the last year. The exports of garments during the last year to the countries where special export promotional activities have been organised by the Council have been as follows:-

	Value in Million US Dollars
	1996-97
Australia	90.2
New Zealand	21.9
Brazil	27.1
Venezuela	4.86
Chile	27.2
South Africa	32.5
Japan	119.9

[English]

Government Borrowings

*52. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 422 dated November 22, 1996 on the above subject and state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Government to invoke provisions of articles 292 and 293 of the Indian Constitution to enable the Parliament to cap Government borrowings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to circulate a 'Discussion Paper' on the subject for generating an informed debate. The feasibility and practicability of fixing a limit on borrowings by the Government of India under Article 292 of the Constitution could be considered based on the outcome of the debate.

Coins, Currency Notes and Security Papers

*53. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY:

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of growing shortage of coins, currency notes of smaller denominations and security papers for sale-purchase deals and difficulties encountered by the general public on this account over the last one year;